

I Claim:

1. A cooking system, comprising:

A) a cooking appliance, comprising:

- i) a programmable control module,
- ii) a heating device controlled by said programmable control module, and
- iii) a cooking location wherein said heating device is in communication with said cooking location to provide heat to said cooking location, and

B) a remote computer in information communication with said programmable control module via a wireless communication link.

2. The cooking system as in Claim 1, wherein said remote computer is a PDA.

3. The cooking system as in Claim 1, wherein said remote computer is a Palm Pilot.

4. The cooking system as in Claim 1, wherein said wireless communication link is an infrared link.

5. The cooking system as in Claim 1, wherein said remote computer is a portable laptop computer.

6. The cooking system as in Claim 1, wherein said remote computer communicates programming instructions to said programmable control module via said wireless communication link, and wherein said remote computer receives data from said programmable control module via said wireless communication link.

7. The cooking system as in Claim 1, further comprising:

A) a temperature acquisition module in communication with said remote computer via a second communication link, and

B) a temperature probe connected to said temperature acquisition module and in communication with said cooking location, wherein said temperature probe senses

the temperature of said cooking location and wherein said sensed temperature is transmitted via said temperature acquisition module to said remote computer.

8. The cooking system as in Claim 7, wherein said second communication link is a serial link.
9. The cooking system as in Claim 1, further comprising:
  - A) a temperature acquisition module in communication with said remote computer via a second communication link, and
  - B) a temperature probe connected to said temperature acquisition module and in communication with food that has been heated within said cooking location and then removed from said cooking location, wherein said temperature probe senses the temperature of said food and wherein said sensed temperature is transmitted via said temperature acquisition module to said remote computer.
10. The cooking system as in Claim 9, wherein said temperature probe is a plurality of temperature probes.
11. The cooking system as in Claim 9, wherein said temperature probe is a plurality of temperature probes and wherein said food is a plurality of food specimens.
12. The cooking system as in Claim 1, wherein said cooking appliance is a warmer and said cooking location is a warming area.
13. The cooking system as in Claim 1, wherein said cooking appliance is a grill.
14. The cooking system as in Claim 1, wherein said cooking appliance is an oven.
15. The cooking system as in Claim 1, wherein said remote computer communicates calibration instructions to said programmable control module via said wireless communication link.

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18. A method for calibration of a cooking appliance, comprising the steps of:

- i) a programmable control module,
- ii) a heating device controlled by said programmable control module,
- iii) a cooking location wherein said heating device is in communication with said cooking location to provide heat to said cooking location,

- i) a temperature acquisition module in communication with said remote computer via a second communication link, and
- ii) a temperature probe connected to said temperature acquisition module and in communication with said cooking location,

D) sensing the temperature of said cooking location via said temperature probe,

F) comparing at said remote computer said set point temperature to said sensed temperature, and

G) transmitting from said remote computer to said programmable control module calibration instructions based on the results of said comparing of said set point temperature to said sensed temperature.

19. The method as in Claim 18, wherein said wireless communication link is an infrared link and said remote computer is a PDA.

20. A method for verifying the temperature of cooked food, comprising the steps of:

A) inserting food into a cooking appliance, wherein said cooking appliance comprises:

- i) a programmable control module,
- ii) a heating device controlled by said programmable control module, and
- iii) a cooking location wherein said heating device is in communication with said cooking location to provide heat to said cooking location,

B) heating said food via said cooking appliance,

C) removing said food from said cooking appliance,

D) sensing the temperature of said food via a remote computer, wherein said remote computer comprises,

- i) a temperature acquisition module in communication with said remote computer via a communication link, and
- ii) a temperature probe connected to said temperature acquisition module and in communication with said food,

wherein a desired food temperature has been programmed into said remote computer,

E) comparing at said remote computer said desired food temperature to said sensed temperature, and

F) transmitting from said remote computer to said programmable control module via a wireless communication link ~~calibration instructions~~ based on the results of said comparing of said desired food temperature to said sensed temperature.

FOOTNOTES

21. The method as in Claim 20, wherein said wireless communication link is an infrared link and said remote computer is a PDA.

22. The method as in Claim 20, wherein said temperature probe is a plurality of temperature probes.

23. The method as in Claim 20, wherein said temperature probe is a plurality of temperature probes and said food is a plurality of food specimens.

24. A method for programming a cooking appliance, wherein said cooking appliance comprises:

A) a programmable control module,

B) a heating device controlled by said programmable control module,

C) a cooking location wherein said heating device is in communication with said cooking location to provide heat to said cooking location,

said method comprising the steps of:

D) inserting programming instructions into a remote computer,

E) transmitting said programming instructions from said remote computer to said programmable control module via a wireless communication link, and

F) utilizing said programming instructions to heat said cooking location with said heating device.

25. The method as in Claim 24, wherein said wireless communication link is an infrared link and said remote computer is a PDA.

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